

Bill graduated from Kingston High School in 1962 and served in the Army from 1963 to 1966. He joined the City of Wilkes-Barre government as a city license clerk in 1970 and within two years, he had moved up to city clerk, the chief administrative officer for the City Council.

It is a testament to Bill's abilities that he has served under seven different mayors. It also speaks very well of him that in 1996, rather than lose Bill's services as city clerk because incoming Mayor Tom McGroarty wanted him to serve as city administrator, the City Council convinced Bill to serve in both positions. This dual role meant that Bill took on the added responsibility of serving as the chief administrative officer of a city government that employs 425 people.

Bill has also made time for extensive community involvement over the years, including his membership at Veterans of Foreign Wars Wilkes-Barre Post 6227, where he served as commander from 1973 to 1976. He is a past exalted ruler of Elks Wyoming Valley Lodge No. 109, where his fellow members recognized his contributions by naming him Elk of the Year in 1993. He is also founder and chairman of the board of governors of the Killer Bees Athletic Club, a life member of AMVETS Post 59 in Hanover Township, and a member of the North End Slovak Citizens Club, the St. Conrad's Society, and the St. David's Society. He has also served as a board member and officer of the Wilkes-Barre City Employees Credit Union for 30 years.

He has also participated in numerous professional organizations, including the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the International Municipal Clerks' Advanced Education Academy, the Pennsylvania Local Government Secretaries Association, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, National League of Cities and Wyoming Valley Municipal Managers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long and dedicated service of Bill Brace to the people of Wilkes-Barre, and I wish him all the best.

CRIMINAL ALIEN VISA DENIAL ACT OF 2001

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Criminal Alien Visa Denial Act of 2001 to ensure the State Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) have access to U.S. criminal databases before they let aliens into the country.

The State Department and INS currently lack the ability to access the FBI's National Criminal Information Center's Interstate Identification Index (NCIC-III) database. That means an alien can come into our country, commit a crime, leave, and get a reentry visa from our State Department or cross the border without being stopped.

There is evidence this has already happened. Between 1998 and 1999, serial killer Angel Maturino Resendiz, the "Texas Railroad Killer," a Mexican with a lengthy criminal record in the United States, was allowed to

cross the border because the INS didn't know he had a record. And when he got here, he killed at least six people before his capture. And just last week, we heard unconfirmed reports one of the terrorist hijackers may have been allowed to cross the Canadian border even though he too had a criminal record in the United States.

Strengthening national security, particularly border security, against dispersed but deadly criminals and terrorists requires interagency cooperation and coordination on an unprecedented scale. Data matches between federal agencies today are often the product of good luck and the happenstance of personal relationships. The modern threat demands a more systematic collection and dissemination of the information needed to identify suspects or prevent known criminals from entering the United States.

The gap in data-sharing between Departments is no longer simply a matter of bureaucratic inertia, but a threat to national security.

In 1996, the FBI and State Department issued a joint report recommending the State Department receive limited access to the NCIC-III database so the State Department could better identify aliens with a criminal background in our country and prevent their entry. Nevertheless, for four years this report lay dormant while the Departments could not find a mutually agreeable way to institute their recommendations. The language in this bill should meet with the approval of both the Justice and State Departments.

Last year the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations, began a series of meetings and briefings to discuss data-sharing. On July 24th of this year, the Subcommittee held a hearing on Federal Interagency Data Sharing and National Security. That hearing taught us effective border security begins with our embassies, where U.S. visas are issued.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNI- VERSARY OF CANE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2001, the Sixth District of North Carolina will be celebrating with Cane Creek Friends Meeting its 250th anniversary. The Cane Creek Friends Meeting opened its doors for worship for the first time in 1751, when George Washington was just 19 years old.

The Cane Creek Friends Meeting is a Quaker Church that opened to serve 30 families. These families desired a place to worship near to their homes. It was two women, Abigail Pike and Rachel Wright, with some others, who traveled some 200 miles to the governing body of the Friends in Perquimans, North Carolina, to secure permission for the establishment of the Cane Creek Meeting. As you may have realized, this all happened before our great country had a Constitution or even its first President. Cane Creek Friends Meeting has witnessed every event in our proud history.

During the first 13 years of the Meeting's existence, it was located on a parcel of land,

which was a part of the original grant of John Stanfield. Since 1764, Cane Creek Friends Meeting has been located on a 26-acre site donated by William Marshall.

The Meeting's Sesquicentennial Committee, has planned and carried out several projects to celebrate this remarkable anniversary. Some of these projects include the publication of a pictorial history book, the design and stitching of a heritage quilt, and the construction of a memorial garden at the Meeting-house.

Cane Creek Friends Meeting places a strong emphasis and takes great pride in its belief regarding the equality of women. Over the years there have been several female ministers, beginning with Abigail Pike in 1751. Furthermore, the Meeting prides itself on the fact that it has conducted many educational programs for children in the area.

Through the years, Quakers have had a very important input into the development of this country. Many elected officials have been Quakers. Indeed, despite the fact that I am a Presbyterian, I went to school at Guilford College in North Carolina, which is a Quaker institution, so Quakers have affected my upbringing and education as well.

On behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to wish Cane Creek Friends Meeting our congratulations on reaching this historic and momentous anniversary. Only a very small number of organizations in this country can claim to have been operating for 250 years. It is a truly remarkable achievement.

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE OPERA OF MICHIGAN ON THE OC- CASION OF THE INAUGURAL OPERA PERFORMANCE AT THE FORD COMMUNITY AND PER- FORMING ARTS CENTER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friends of the Opera of Michigan as they celebrate the opening of the city of Dearborn's wonderful new Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. The Friends of the Opera will christen this impressive new facility with its first opera on September 22, 2001. A performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* has been chosen for this inaugural event. An impressive cast of international artists directed by the Friends of the Opera's own Quinto Milito will showcase their talents to an appreciative audience in Dearborn.

Additionally, a statue of Verdi will be unveiled at the opening. Verdi stands as a monumental figure in Italian opera and his compositions are greatly admired by the large Italian-American population in Dearborn, the communities of Downriver and throughout metropolitan Detroit. We are blessed to have such a fine facility and such extraordinary talent available to us here in Dearborn.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the Friends of the Opera of Michigan and to the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center for many years of beautiful performances.